

HOW WE COMING

SCENE FROM
"THE ARCADIAN"
AT THE
JEFFERSONAL H.
WILSON
AS THE
"METZ"
IN "IRELAND"
JEFFERSONIRENE BROWN
PRIMA
DONNA
MANHATTAN
OPERA CO.
SHUBERTSCENE FROM
"THE WANDERER"
AT THE
BIJOUMISS BULL
"THE MAN ON THE
BOX"
JEFFERSON

Al H. (Metz) Wilson, the German dialect comedian, who occupies a prominent position in the front ranks of Teutonic comedians, and who has built up a clientele that equals the proportions of that enjoyed by the elder Emmett of pleasant memory, will be the attraction at the Jefferson theatre Monday night, when he will present his great success, "Metz in Ireland."

Mr. Wilson is possessed of a magnetic personality that has won him many friends during his previous engagements in Birmingham, and his always certain conquest of an audience is aided and accentuated this season through an uncommonly bright and interesting play, the mere title of which is suggestive of quaint and picturesque scenes and beautiful situations. Add to that a story that abounds in romance, tender pathos and pleasing drollery; add to that again an able and magnetic actor, a singer whose vocal abilities are of the kind that place him by himself in an undisputed class on the American stage; add furthermore the scenic effects that the subject allows, and which are provided in abundance by Manager Sidney R. Ellis, and a company of unusual strength, and you can form a good idea of the play which has the distinction of being the best in which this popular comedian has ever appeared.

The story tells of the adventures of a German rover in the land of the Shamrock, where he becomes a firm believer in the good little fairies made famous in Irish song and story. Mr. Wilson portrays the character of Metz Klonkity, the son of an Irish earl whose first wife was German and who always insisted on living in her own country where Metz was raised and educated.

Metz journeys to Ireland for the purpose of establishing his claim as the rightful heir to his father's Irish estate, which, by the terms of the will, reverts to a niece of the earl's second wife if Metz does not make his appearance by the time he is 21 years of age. He arrives at Klonkity castle unknown, driving a jaunting car, to which is hitched a native donkey, and is mistaken for a German wanderer, in which guise he concludes to appear until he has had the opportunity to familiarize himself with local conditions. He becomes acquainted with the steward of the estate, one McCune, who is under the impression that the German heir is dead and who has entered into a conspiracy with Lord Somers, nephew of the late earl, to loot the estate. Before Metz makes known his identity he makes friends of the tenants of the estate, for whom he is ever ready to sing their native songs and the songs of his Fatherland.

Of course, no description of a Wilson play would be complete were not mention made of the musical part of the performance. Mr. Wilson can always be depended upon for a selection of new and entrancing songs, and his audience will not be disappointed this season. Included among the new musical numbers is "My Queen of Dreams," which is said to rival any of the songs made famous by this comedian in the past.

"The Man on the Box" comes to the Jefferson theatre next Thursday, matinee and night, fully equipped for the road with the original New York city production. Bert Leigh, in the leading titular role, has been surrounded with all the accessories that helped make Henry E. Dixey famous in this play. The supporting cast is said to be of unusual excellence for a road production, and a first-class performance is promised the thespian public.

scocla was not included in the itinerary last year.

"Mr. Bert Leigh was the 'Man on the Box,' and it is rarely that a young actor who comes unheralded and unknown, grasps the situations of light, romantic comedy more clearly than he. In some respects Mr. Leigh reminds one of John Drew, graceful, light and airy all the time.

"The scenes in the play are laid in Washington and at the beautiful suburban town of Chevy Chase, and tell of a madcap scrape of Lieutenant Warburton, which lands him in police court and later in the employ of Miss Aunesley, the daughter of a retired army officer, who suspects he is acting under false colors.

"There is an intrigue in which a Russian count is concerned, regarding military secrets and 'The Man on the Box' and Miss Aunesley fall in love with each other.

"The story ends very happily, as all romances should.

"Mr. Leigh's leading woman is Miss Dora Hastings, who is clever, dashing, and rather a brilliant actress.

"There are at least a dozen minor characters and all of them are creditably filled.

"The 'Man on the Box' created a great deal of attention during the first year in the very large cities and later has been well received throughout the country. There is no reason why it should not be a good drawing card for a number of years yet."

"The Arcadians," which has just ended a two years' run at the New York theatre, is said to be the most talked of musical comedy play since "The Merry Widow," and has been declared in some quarters far ahead of the latter from a musical point of view. The entire New York company intact which played at the New York theatre will be seen in the newest and greatest of all musical comedies on Thursday night, December 29, at the Jefferson theatre.

Arcady, it is learned, became isolated centuries ago and has been preserved from the deteriorating influence of modern civilization. One fair morning when they gathered in a lovely glade to loil on the grass and dance and sing about "The Joy of Life," there comes upon them one James Smith, a London shopkeeper and amateur aviator. Just over the pastoral glen his motor falls him and he tumbles into their midst. Scarcely has he rebounded from the bump before he tells a fib. The shocked Arcadians toss Smith into the "Well of Truth," when he comes forth younger by a score of years and garbed in the gay costume in style in Arcady.

Smith, now christened Simplicitas, tells his reformers of the guile of London. His horrified hearers delegate two of Arcady's sweetest maidens, Sombra and Chrysea, to go with Simplicitas to London carrying the simple life. In the end Sombra and Chrysea find that their efforts at the uplift are not appreciated and they return sadly to their own country. Before they go they sing several pretty songs; enable the hero, Jack Meadows, to win the Askwood race, that means a fortune to him, and also succeeds in his wooing of pretty Eileen. Smith has great sport teasing his wife, who does not know him in his rejuvenated form as Simplicitas, until in an unguarded moment he disregards the truth again and is turned back into Smith, by means of the water cure. "The Arcadians" is in a setting of three elaborate scenes, the grassy glen of Arcady, a hillside at Askwood track and Smith's restaurant in London. The piece is notable for many numbers of lovely music, sung by a large company, beautifully costumed and

highly trained, and by the same strong cast which appeared at the New York theatre.

A Joke That Went Astray
An actor can usually take a joke as well as anybody, but there are times when he fails to appreciate the point of the joke.

Such an instance happened to Al H. Wilson, the German dialect comedian, which resulted quite seriously for the joker. In this instance the joker happened to be Mr. Wilson's own cousin, whom he had not seen for several years. It was during the preliminary rehearsals of "Metz in Ireland." The stage manager was compelled to discharge several supers engaged for the cast who did not "show up" well at rehearsals. Mr. Wilson's cousin, who had called at the theatre and was waiting the arrival of that gentleman, noticed that several of the supers let out by the stage manager were tough looking customers, and he concluded to give his cousin a scare when he arrived. He therefore pulled his hat over his eyes and elevated the cigar he was smoking to an angle of about 45 degrees, which made him look tough enough to answer the purpose—especially as he is a big, strapping fellow built like Jeffries.

Walking up to Mr. Wilson as he stepped on the stage, he asked: "Are you de star?"

"I am," replied Mr. Wilson. "What can I do for you?"

"Nothing," said the fierce looking cousin. "I'm one of de guys as was just fired by de stage manager, and I want to do something for yonder. Guess I'll give youse a good beating."

"Ticked to death," said Mr. Wilson, and with this he picked up a stage brace and struck the speaker over the head.

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The stage hands, not knowing who the stranger was, proceeded to take a hand, and when the cyclone had passed the cousin was pulled out of an elevator shaft where a right-handed look under the left ear had landed him. Aside from a broken nose, two broken ribs and a dislocated shoulder he was all right and able to explain the joke and reveal his identity. At the hospital he later assured Mr. Wilson that it would be a long time before he would have the courage to look a practical joke in the face.

Manhattan Opera Company
On Monday, December 26 at a Christmas matinee the Manhattan Opera company will open a four days' engagement at the Shubert theatre by presenting Gilbert Sullivan's brilliant comic opera, "The Mikado." The other bills will be as follows: Monday night, "Martha"; Tuesday night, "Carmen"; Wednesday matinee, "The Mascot"; Wednesday night, "Bohemian Girl"; Thursday night, "Il Trovatore."

The Manhattan company is said to be one of unusual merit. Its repertoire is certainly popular.

The cast with the company is a strong one, and is composed of Miss Madge Caldwell, soprano; Miss Nella Brown, contralto; Charles Fulton, late of the Henry W. Savage's Grand Opera company, tenor; George Natanson, late of the Madame Butterfly company, baritone; Raymond Crane, who appeared in the New York production of "The Mikado" last summer, bass, and Wilbur Cox, comedian.

"The Wanderer," at the Bijou
One of the unique, new attractions of the season is "The Wanderer," at the Bijou, this week with Arthur Donaldson, the refined, gifted singing comedian, in the title role. The play will be seen with pleasure all week, with matinees Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The Nashville Tennessee of Nashville 22 said of the play and players:

Not for many a day has Nashville had the opportunity of seeing a better play or one better presented than the offering of this week at the Bijou. Arthur Donaldson, in the title role of Daniel Broro Sorlin's three act romance, "The Wanderer," gives as pleasing and as sweet an impersonation of "The Youth Without Guile or Evil" as could be desired. No problem play is it, but one dealing with the principal forces of love, greed and hate. It can easily stand that hardest test set for a play—a second and even a third seeing. Arthur Donaldson captivates his audience at the first and carries them on with him. They feel sure that in every crisis he will measure up to the standard they have set for him, and not once does he fail them. The simplicity and nobility of the Swedish character is brought out in all its intensity by this capable actor.

The story is of a western ranch, owned by a widow with money, a plenty and three children, the youngest of whom is by adoption. "The Wanderer" comes and soon has the love and respect of all. Of Swedish parentage and early left alone by the murder of his father, the death of his mother, and the supposed death of his baby sister. The end is plainly seen from the first, but that only holds the interest. The same crafty hand that has reeked destruction on the wanderer's home is seeking to lay its impress on this home of his adoption, when the wanderer steps in and ends his machinations.

Mr. Donaldson is a refined and particularly gifted comedian and one for whom many and great things may safely be predicted. He is finished and with the buoyance of a horn, not a made actor. He enjoys his part and revels and

delights in every word and his role of Britheof Arlig is real and wholehearted. In addition to this the play is interspersed with several musical and pretty ballads and they are sung with excellent taste and sweetness.

Second in interest is the little maiden, Corinne Malvern, who in the child's part, wins her way into the heart of each one in the audience. She is natural, just a merry little child, whose life is bound by love and sheltering care, and who at once responds to the simplicity and sweetness of the wanderer. The little lady has talent marked and of a high degree.

Playhouse Gossip
The Girl in the Taxi, which comes to the Jefferson theatre soon has a supper scene that is filled with interest and laughs from start to finish. The manner in which Bertie Stewart, the youth who is "dining out" with a young lady for the first time, manages to buy a \$50 supper with but \$10 in his pocket is one of the most original conceits in this rapid-fire importation from Paris. It might be mentioned that Bertie raised the \$10 by pawning his father's suit of clothes.

Once every season Lew Fields may be counted upon to do something really startling in the way of producing a rip-roaring musical play. His batting average, in this respect, is "way up above the average." Mr. Fields' latest incursion into the realm of mirth took place last spring when he gave a waiting public "The Summer Widowers." The same public had been lavish in its praise of "The Midnight Sons." Then came "The Jolly Bachelors" and everyone said surely the end must be at hand. But Mr. Fields continued experimenting with tinkering with the result that "The Summer Widowers" is really the biggest thing he has ever done.

"A wild, laughable show" is the manner in which the New York Globe characterized the first performance of "The Lottery Man," the early part of December, 1909, when this play by Rida Johnson Young was first produced by the Shubert theatre outside of New York.

Alan Dale makes this striking comment: "The operetta at the Lyric theatre actually dares to offer music as the main attraction for a musical show. No molasses—no ragtime—no drizzle—no sentimental music. Just music. Long before Act I was over the delicacy, grace and charm of the music trickled into the crevices of our appreciation. There were duets and trios ever so often and each was prettier than the other. More consistent, gracious and tuneful music has seldom been heard. Madame Troubadour is a bewitching musical surprise and I would like to hear it again."

"The Prosecutor," a new play with William Courtleigh in the leading role will be the offering at the Shubert soon, with a cast including William Owen, Wallace Worley, Eva McDonald, Clara Blandick, Nancy Avril, Bigelow Cooper, Charles E. Verner, James McKean, Howard Stout and many others. The scenes of the play show a gambling place in New York tenebrous, the district attorney's office and an apartment in a New York skyscraper. The political bosses, gamblers, prosecutors, detectives, men and women of fashion and men and women of the demi monde are in the passing show, and the complications are of the sort that arise from the crowded, seamy life of Gotham.

Had a Mist
Tailor—Sir, I have made clothes for some of the best houses.
Customer—Maybe, they will fit a house. They certainly won't fit a man.

OFFICIAL BRITISH CATS

Two Thousand Employed in Departments of the Government

From the World Today.

John Bull employs a large number of cats—exactly how many it would be impossible to say, but if we include those in the various government offices, barracks, prisons, docks and workshops, the number cannot fall far short of 200.

These animals work solely for the British government, and for their services are duly rewarded with a liberal supply of food and cozy quarters.

The principal governments of the world acknowledge the business ability of cats by placing under their surveillance mail bags, grain bags, army stores and other goods belonging to the various departments.

All cats in the service of the British government are on the payroll, each receiving as a general rule 25 cents a week. Should any of them fall ill the head of the department to which the animal belongs is at liberty to call in a veterinary and charge the government with his services.

Joe is at the head of the board of education. In the home office is a cat rejoicing in the name of Toby, who is constantly in the doctor's hands. He suffers from asthma and positively dreads the advent of London's cold and fogs. He is 11 years of age and is a great favorite with every one. Although he suffers so much in the region of his windpipe he still is a great hunter and has a record for killing 16 mice in a single week.

Joe is at the head of the board of education. Two summers only have passed over his head, yet he is an old hand at catching mice, rats, pigeons and sparrows. In catching pigeons he resorts to several ingenious devices.

He has been detected carrying newspapers to a spot frequented by pigeons, hiding beneath it and thus awaiting his opportunity to seize an unwary bird. His record for pigeon catching is six a week, but frequently he has captured two in an hour.

Trillie is an important member of the

war office staff. She receives a grant from the British government of 25 cents a week, has miles of corridors to roam over and is friends with scores of high personages who never tease her. For hours she paces the cold dark corridors in the basement and chases away the vermin that attack the thousands of old documents which until a few months ago were stacked there.

BUSY QUEEN MARY

One Who Has Known Her 20 Years Has Never Seen Her Idle

In business matters Queen Mary is clear and expeditious, methodical and systematic. Her mornings are generally taken up with attending to the voluminous correspondence that arrives by every post.

Her secretary and lady in waiting submit their letters and the Queen gives instructions concerning them. According to the North American Review she quickly grasps the main issue of a question and soon makes up her mind.

She has never been known to lay aside a matter on the ground that to express an opinion thereon is irksome or difficult. But should any letter require further consideration it is held over for a day, when a decision is given and almost invariably adhered to.

Every consideration is shown to those privileged to serve the Queen, and before signifying her pleasure as to the personal attendance of members of her household she will often inquire whether they may not have some other engagement the breaking of which would be inconvenient to them.

Busy though the Queen is—and one who has known her for 20 years has never seen her unemployed—she is intimately acquainted with and takes part in all that relates to the management of the household. Every servant is known to her, and their comfort is as much a matter of concern to their royal mistress as that of any one else. In fact, no detail of life worries the Queen, hence the reason that her sympathies are wide and all her days full of work.

Try this Egg-nog

Beat the yolks of six eggs and half a pound of sugar together until it is a froth. Add half a pint of

Good old GUCKENHEIMER Pure Rye BOTTLED IN BOND

Then add the whites of the eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Next add three pints of whipped cream. Then invite in your friends for a great treat. The rich, distinctive flavor and perfect purity of Good Old Guckenheimer gives the egg-nog a delightful charm.

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